THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRIV. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has referred the recommendations of the Mahajan Committee on sugarcane pricing to the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and they have been requested to recommend a new sugarcane pricing policy. CACP had accepted the responsibility. The changes, if any, in the sugarcane pricing policy in the future would depend the recommendations of the CACP. No time limit has been put in this regard.

Consumer redressal machinery

3009. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a programme for augmenting infrastructure and to stengthen consumer redressal machinery in the country;

(b) if so, the plan formulated in this regard, State-wise;

{c) the funds earmarked for the purpose during 2002-03; and (d) the steps taken in this regard during last three years? THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (d) According to the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, the responsibility for setting up of the Consumer Disputes Redressal Machinery in the States and UTs and its effective functioning rests with the State Governments and UT Administrations. However, to supplement the efforts of the States and UTs to strengthen the infrastructure of the Consumer Disputes Redressal Machinery, Central Government have provided one time financial assistance of Rs. 61.80 crores to the States and UTs under the Central Sector One-Time-Grant Scheme during the year 1995—99. The said scheme has not been extended further. No such fund has been earmarked in this regard duirng the year 2002-03.

Sale of rice meant for export

3010. SHRI RK. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to lift ban on sale of rice meant for exports in the domestic market;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware that all genuine exporters would be worst sufferer who are unable to compete in the international market; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to protect interest of the genuine exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U. V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) No, Sir. Stocks lifted from Central Pool for export purposes ought not to be sold in the domestic market.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Draught/flood affected families in Tamil Nadu

3011. PROF M. SANKARALING AM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to stale:

(a) the details of the allocation of rice by Tamil Nadu Government for the drought/flood affected families during the current year;

(b) whether Government have studied the demand and supply of the State during the drought/flood for the last five years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government propose to evolve a mechanism to solve the problem of drought/flood^affected families of the State in terms of timely allocation of rice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) to (d) No request has been received from the Government of Tamil Nadu for undertaking a study of the demand and supply of foodgrains during drought/floods' in the last five years or for setting up of a Central mechanism to ensure timely supplies.

A quanitity of 50,000 MTs of rice had been allocated by the Central Government to the State Government free of cost for drought affected families during the current year.